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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/400,507	09/21/1999	MARK ANTHONY CESARE	ST9-99-034	3492

24033 7590 05/20/2002

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EXAMINER

FLEURANTIN, JEAN B

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2172

DATE MAILED: 05/20/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/400,507

Applicant(s)

CESARE ET AL. *W*

Examiner

Jean B Fleurantin

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 March 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 7-12, 15-18 and 21-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 5,6,13,14,19 and 20 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

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DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Claim 26 is added.

Claims 1-26 are remained for examination.

2. Applicant's arguments submitted on 03/08/2002 with respect to claims 1-26 have been considered but are not persuasive. And, the added claim 26 is discussed in the following rejection.

Response to Applicant's Remarks

3. In response to applicant's argument on pages 5 and 6, that the examiner's conclusion of obviousness is based upon improper hindsight reasoning, it must be recognized that any judgment on obviousness is in a sense necessarily a reconstruction based upon hindsight reasoning. But so long as it takes into account only knowledge which was within the level of ordinary skill at the time the claimed invention was made, and does not include knowledge gleaned only from the applicant's disclosure, such a reconstruction is proper. See *In re McLaughlin*, 443 F.2d 1392, 170 USPQ 209 (CCPA 1971).

In response to applicant's argument on page 7, a prima facie case of obvious of is established when the teachings from the prior art itself would appear to have suggested the claimed subject matter to a person of ordinary skill in the art. Once such a case is established, it is incumbent upon appellant to go forward with objective evidence of unobviousness. *In re Fielder*, 471 F.2d 640, 176 USPQ 300 (CCPA 1973).

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Examiner is entitled to give claim limitations their broadest reasonable interpretation in light of the specification.

Interpretation of Claims-Broadest Reasonable Interpretation

During patent examination, the pending claims must be 'given the broadest reasonable interpretation consistent with the specification.' Applicant always has the opportunity to amend the claims during prosecution and broad interpretation by the examiner reduces the possibility that the claim, once issued, will be interpreted more broadly than is justified. In re Prater, 162 USPQ 541,550-51 (CCPA 1969).

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-4, 7-12, 15-18 and 22-26 are rejected under U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant admitted prior art ("Related art").

As per claims 1 and 17, Related art substantially teaches method for transforming data in an input table in a database in a server in communication with a client (thus, the data in the database table is transferred from the database server to the client to perform the transformation operation on the data at the client, which is readable as transforming data in an input table in a database in a server in communication with a client) (see page 3, lines 15-17), as claimed

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comprises accessing a copy of the input table from the database (thus, clause to limit the rows extracted from the source table, which is readable as accessing a copy of the input table from the database) (see page 2, lines 27-28);

transforming, within the server, data in the accessed input table according to each rule specified in the transform command (thus, different transform application programs must be written for each table to transform and for different transform rules applied to the same table, which is readable as transforming, within the server, data in the accessed input table according to each rule specified in the transform command) (see page 3, lines 12-15). But, Related art does not explicitly indicate the step of receiving from the client a transform command indicating an input data table name in the database and at least one rule indicating at least one cell in the input table to transform and a transform operation to perform with respect to the at least one cell.

However, Related art implicitly shows the step of the data in the database table is transferred from the database server to the client to perform the transformation operation on the data at the client, after the data is transformed at the client the data must then be transferred to the database server to update the transformed table in the database; which is readable as table is transferred from the database server to the client to perform the transformation operation on the data at the client, after the data is transformed at the client the data must then be transferred to the database server to update the transformed table in the database) (see page 3, lines 15-19). Also, in page 3, lines 6 through 8 Related art further teaches transformation operations may be performed using client application programs external to the database program that process and transform tables of data

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records. Thus, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teachings of Related art with the step of receiving from the client a transform command indicating an input data table name in the database and at least one rule indicating at least one cell in the input table to transform and a transform operation to perform with respect to the at least one cell. This modification would allow the teachings of Related art to improve the quality of the method and system program and data structure for transforming database, and provide an improved technique for transforming data in a database server (see page 3, lines 26-27).

As per claims 2, 10 and 26, Related art substantially teaches a method as claimed, wherein the client is a client computer that communicates with the server over a network, wherein the transform command is transmitted from the client computer to the server over the network (thus, the data in the database table is transferred from the database server to the client to perform the transformation operation on the data at the client, after the data is transformed at the client the data must then be transferred to the database server to update the transformed table in the database; which is readable as wherein the client is a client computer that communicates with the server over a network, wherein the transform command is transmitted from the client computer to the server over the network) (see page 3, lines 112-19).

As per claims 3 and 11, the limitations of claims 3 and 11 are rejected in the analysis of claim 1 above, and these claims are rejected on that basis.

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As per claims 4, 12, 18, and 23 Related art substantially teaches a method as claimed, wherein the transform command rules specify multiple transform operations to perform on at least one cell in the accessed input table (see page 2, lines 27-28), wherein an application of a subsequent transform operation following a previous transform operation on one cell transforms previously transformed data in the cell (thus, data records in a computer database are maintained in tables which are a collection of rows all having the same columns, each column maintains information on a particular type of data for the data records which comprise rows, data mining is the process of extracting valid and previously unknown information from large databases and using it to make crucial business decisions; which is readable as wherein an application of a subsequent transform operation following a previous transform operation on one cell transforms previously transformed data in the cell) (see pages 1 and 2, lines 27-28 and 12-14).

As per claims 14 and 24, Related art substantially teaches a method as claimed, further comprises determining whether the transform command indicates an output table in the database (thus, transformations on the data may be necessary, transformations vary from conversions of one type of data to another; which is readable as determining whether the transform command indicates an output table in the database) (see page 2, lines 13-14);

writing the transformed input table to the output table if the transform command indicates the output table (thus, once the desired database tables have been selected and the data to be mined has been identified, transformations on the data may be necessary, transformations vary from conversions of one type of data to another; which is readable as writing the transformed

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input table to the output table if the transform command indicates the output table) (see page 2, lines 12-14);

updating the input table in the database with the transformed input table if the transform command does not indicate one output table (thus, after the data is transformed at the client the data must then be transferred to the database server to update the transformed table in the database, which is readable as updating the input table in the database with the transformed input table if the transform command does not indicate one output table) (see page 3, lines 17-19).

As per claims 7 and 15, Related art substantially teaches a method as claimed, wherein the client cannot affect the execution of the transform command during the execution of the transform command, whereby the transform command executes in the server independently of the client (thus, the data in the database table is transferred from the database server to the client to perform the transformation operation on the data at the client, which is readable as whereby the transform command executes in the server independently of the client) (see page 3, lines 15-17).

As per claims 8, 16, 21, and 25 Related art substantially teaches a method as claimed, wherein the transform command further comprises multiple rules, wherein each rule specifies at least one column in the input table and at least one transform operation to perform on each specified column in the input table, wherein at least two rules specify different columns in the input table and different transform operations to apply to each specified column (thus, different transform application programs must be written for each table to transform and for different transform rules applied to the same table, the data in the database table is transferred from the

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database server to the client to perform the transformation operation on the data at the client, after the data is transformed at the client the data must then be transferred to the database server to update the transformed table in the database; which is readable as wherein the transform command further comprises multiple rules, wherein each rule specifies at least one column in the input table and at least one transform operation to perform on each specified column in the input table, wherein at least two rules specify different columns in the input table and different transform operations to apply to each specified column) (see page 3, lines 12-19).

As per claim 9, in addition to the discussion in claim 1, Related art substantially teaches system for transforming data, comprises a client process (thus, the data in the database table is transferred from the database server to the client to perform the transformation operation on the data at the client, which is readable as a client process) (see page 3, lines 15-17);

a server including a database and an input table in communication with the client process (thus, transformation operations may be performed using client application programs external to the database program that process and transform tables of data records, which is readable as a server including a database and an input table in communication with the client process) (see page 3, lines 6-8);

As per claim 22, in addition to the discussion in claim 1, Related art substantially teaches a memory device including a command for performing a transform operation on a computer database input table, the command comprising an input data table name parameter indicating the input table subject to the transform operation (thus, once the desired database tables have been

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selected and the data to be mined has been identified transformations on the data may necessary, transformations vary from conversions of one type of data to another, e.g., converting nominal values into numeric ones so that they can be processed by a neural network to definition of new attributes; which is readable as the command comprising an input data table name parameter indicating the input table subject to the transform operation) (see page 2, lines 12-16).

Claims objections

5. Claims 5-6, 13-14 and 19-20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.
6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Kiuchi et al. U.S. Patent Number 5,765,167 relates to a data processing apparatus for executing data update processing on that basis of variety of business processing files.

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication from examiner should be directed to Jean Bolte Fleurantin at (703) 308-6718. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 7:30 A.M. to 6:00 P.M.

If any attempt to reach the examiner by telephone is unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mrs. KIM VU can be reached at (703) 305-8449. The FAX phone numbers for the Group 2100 Customer Service Center are: ***After Final*** (703) 746-7238, ***Official*** (703) 746-7239,

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and *Non-Official* (703) 746-7240. NOTE: Documents transmitted by facsimile will be entered as official documents on the file wrapper unless clearly marked "**DRAFT**".

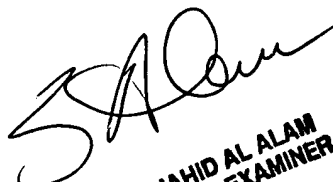
Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group 2100 Customer Service Center receptionist whose telephone numbers are (703) 306-5631, (703) 306-5632, (703) 306-5633.



Jean Bolte Fleurantin

May 16, 2002

JBF/



SHAHID AL ALAM
PATENT EXAMINER